

## Prescription Drugs, Inhalants, and the Brain Fact Sheet

The following chart describes the effects of prescription drugs and inhalants when used appropriately and inappropriately.

	Example	How are they supposed to work?	What can happen when they are used inappropriately?
<b>Opioids</b> Prescribed for pain	Morphine, codeine, Oxycodone (Oxycontin), Hydrocodone (Vicodin)	Block pain messages in brain by attaching to opioid receptors	Addiction, respiratory problems, death
<b>CNS Depressants</b> Prescribed for sleep problems and anxiety	barbiturates and benzodiazepines	Cause calmness by increasing GABA release	Addiction, respiratory problems, death
<b>CNS Stimulants</b> Prescribed for ADHD, narcolepsy, and depression	dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine) and methylphenidate (Ritalin)	Cause increased alertness by copying activity of dopamine and norepinephrine	Addiction, irregular heart beat, high body temperature, heart attack, seizures
<b>Inhalants</b>	Some household products	Meant for purposes other than inhalation	Brain is deprived of oxygen, decreased coordination, heart attack, "sudden sniffing death"

### Conclusions:

1. People should only take prescription drugs prescribed specifically for them by a doctor, and they should always closely follow the directions for use.
2. Prescription drugs affect the brain and body. These changes can be harmful in someone that does not need them.
3. Inhalants are household products that can be very dangerous if used inappropriately.

# Prescription Drugs, Inhalants, and the Brain Fact Sheet

The following chart describes the effects of prescription drugs and inhalants when used appropriately and inappropriately.

	Example	How are they supposed to work?	What can happen when they are used inappropriately?
<b>Opioids</b> Prescribed for pain	Morphine, codeine, Oxycodone (Oxycontin), Hydrocodone (Vicodin)	Block pain messages in brain by attaching to opioid receptors	
<b>CNS Depressants</b> Prescribed for sleep problems and anxiety	barbiturates and benzodiazepines	Cause calmness by increasing GABA release	
<b>CNS Stimulants</b> Prescribed for ADHD, narcolepsy, and depression	dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine) and methylphenidate (Ritalin)	Cause increased alertness by copying activity of dopamine and norepinephrine	
<b>Inhalants</b>	Some household products	Meant for purposes other than inhalation	

## Conclusions:

1.

2.

3.